

G O S P E L C O M M U N I O N In the Way of G O D L I N E S:

Sued for by
The Protestant Churches in *Germany*,
unto the Churches of *Great Brittain* and *Ireland*:
In a Letter written and sent hither to
that effect.

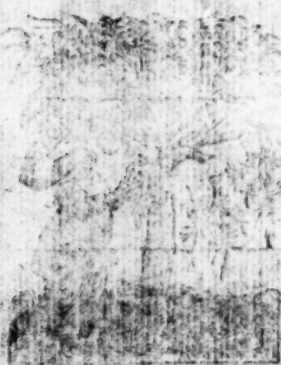


L O N D O N,
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GOSPEL COMMON IN THE WAY OF GODLINESS

The Protestant Churches in Germany
into the Churches of Great Britain and Ireland
in a Letter written and sent by the
the effect



Printed for R. Baskin in London and Bristol



Ecclesiarum Magnæ Britanniae atq;

Hyberniae Patronis & Antistibus Primariis, Exi-
miis Dei servis atq; Ecclesiae Laborantis in Ger-
mania fautoribus Colendissimis: Sit Gratia

& Pax à Deo Patre, & Domino nostro

Jesu Christo per Spiritus san-

cti Communionem,

A M E N.



*I*versa Spiritus Dei dona
membris Ecclesiae diversis
esse concessa, & sacra ora-
cula testantur, & res ipsa
loquitur; finem tamen eun-
dem Communis Aedificati-
onis mutuaq; utilitatis li-
quet Patri luminum, datori
omnis doni perfecti, propo-
situm esse in omnium dono-

rum largitione. Apostolus enim dicit, Unicuiq; datam
esse Spiritus declarationem *apls rē ouphes*: & alibi
jubemur, Ut quisq; accepit donum, ita alius in alium
illud subministret, ut decet bonos gratiae Dei diversae
innotuit. Talentum enim quod à Deo singuli accepimus,

A 2

fide-

fideli nostra commissum est, ut illius dispensatores facti, non illud desodiamus, ut nequam ille servus, in terram; sed ad Domini emolumentum impendamus, ut cum fidelitatem servis, plura tam Domino quam nobis ipsis lucum accipere valeamus possimus.

Deo spectanti, Illustres, Clarissimiq; Viri, Reverendissimiq; atq; Reverendi in Christo Patres & Fratres, ut, cum huiusmodi lectis induerit inter Ecclesias Magnae Britanniae Universitatem Theologiae Practicae, multorum prae Doctorem Ecclesiae vestrae Antistitem publicis scriptis egregie excellentem esse, atq; ad usum Popularem insigniter accommodatam, atq; tam solummodo lingua vestra Cancellum tanquam repositum ab exteris Nationibus, thesaurum conservari, & conservari, maximamq; utilitatem ad omnes Ecclesias Christianas, praesertim autem Evangelicas redundaturam, si qua vobis in hoc genere peculiariora sunt, publicentur, ita ut ab iis quoq; legi & intelligi possint, ut (inquam, cum hac ita se habeant) Illustratibus atq; Reverentibus Vestris votum nostrum ac desiderium aperiamus, atq; per sancta Communionis in Christo vinculum, fraternamq; libertatis Parrhesiam rogemus, vos praesertim quotquot inter Ecclesiarum Rectores, Protectores & Fautores, estis adificationis Publicae verè studiosi, ne permittatis hoc Talentum tam pretiosum ulterius abscondi & occultari ab Exoticorum manibus & oculis, sed velitis pro prudentia vestra, pro ferventis erga fraternas Ecclesias Charitatis, ac liberalis studii erga Dei gloriam in Evangelii propagatione, pio zelo & affectu vestro rationem aliquam inire commodam, quâ Medulla Auctorum in illo genere apud vos extantium & eminentium ex omnibus collecta in volumen aliquod

quod conficiatur, siue locorum communium, siue Systematis Theologiae practicae, quod publici juris sit, & omnium manibus teri possit lingua notâ & doctioribus communi. Audivimus pauca quadam in Belgicum sermonem esse translata, quae magno usui sunt illis Ecclesiis & Theologiae studiosis.

Nuper etiam inter nos Germanico idiomate editus libellus ex Anglico versus de Praxi Pietatis ita afficit omnes Pietatis Cultores, ut inde religioni quae in pura modestaq; veritatis caelestis professione consistit, accessionem permagnam fieri constet. Idcoq; sperare nobis licet, si huic nostro voto accedat per vos favor requisitus, ut facile inter vestrates (quibus ad hac & similia beneficia Ecclesia sua praestanda praevaluit tranquillitatem in hisce turbis, & facultates concessisse videtur divina clementia) inveniantur aliqui, qui colligendis, transferendis, digerendis, atque evulgandis Auctorum praecipuis scriptis & meditationibus practicis non gravate suas impendant operas, suumq; talentum si id suadebitis, unde futurum confidimus, ut insigne Regnum Dei incrementum accipiat, si corpus absolutum talis doctrina existet ex vestris scriptaribus, in quo tam in Theologia Tyrones studii sui, quam Ecclesiarum varii Pastores Concionum suarum materiam invenire possint, adificationi multo utiliore quam illa est quae hodie in scriptis Polemicis occurrit: ita a studio contentionis ad Charitatis non ficti affectus revocari poterunt multorum animi, ex quo tandem futurum sit, ut ad Deum imprimis gloria & gratiarum actio, ad Evangelii professores cum Sanctitatis & Pietatis studio Pax & Concordia, ad Ecclesias publica adificatio, ad simpliciores pia Eruditio,
ad

ad pios & afflictos, solida Spiritus Consolatio; ad errantes & devios, salutaris Conversio; ad securos & carnales, virvida conscientia exsuscitatio; ad Hypocritas & obstinatos, clara perversitatis sua convictio; ad omnes etiam posteros, major lux veritatis perveniat; & ad illos denique, qui summum in hoc studio Talentum collocabunt ad Regni Dei Promotionem, accedat illa vox quondam gloriosa & beata à Domino, qui rationem accepti Talenti conferet nobiscum: Bene est, Serve bone & Fidelis, in exiguo fusti fidelis, super multa te consistam: Incredere in Gaudium Domini tui.

Quod gaudium omnibus in quibus postulat hoc nostrum patefiet, & gratum erit, cum omni corporali felicitate ex animo vovemus. Valete in Domino Viri Excellentes, atque omni honore nobis colendi. Dabantur Hanovix 24 Febr. Anno 1633.

Joannes Daniel Wildius, Verbi Divini Ministr. & Ecclesie Hanovica Inspector, M.P.

Theodorus Lenelius, Ecclesie Hanovica Ministr.

Conradus Ammonius Concionator Aulicus, ibid.

Paulus Tossanus, S. Theolog. D. & Senatus Ecclesiastici in inferiori Palatinatu Electorali Assessor.

Clemens Boccius, Ecclesie Gallica Neo-Hanovica Pastor.

Isaacus Boos, Pastor Ecclesie Flandrica, quæ Christo colligitur Hanovia.

Matthæus Rowyer, Ecclesie Gallica Neo-Han. Pastor

M. Philippus Pareus Davidis Filius Illustris Gymnasii Hanovensis Rector & Professor.

Præter hosce qui Hanovix huic Epistola subscripserunt, alii etiam eadem Herbornæ, & alibi subscripserunt, in Martio & Aprili, eodem anno 1633, quorum nomina hic addita sunt.

Petrus Serenihagen, Sereniss. Regis Bohemæ beatæ memoriæ Concionator Aulicus.

7ob.

*Joh. Adriaen, V. Div. quondam apud Ubias Minister, subscripti
Francofurti 23 April. 1633.*

Philippus Snabelius, Hoinga Salmenfis Patriæ Pastor.

*Johan. Conradus Hopfius V. D. Minister in Comitatu Hanovico,
in Marchabel Exul Palatinus.*

Perutile hoc Propositum & commune fratrum Germanorum
votum, meâ quoque subscriptione confirmare volui:

*Ego Henricus Meerbotius P. F. Pastor Sirostheimi Ladenburgi-
cui, in Elect. Palatinatu.*

*Johan. Irlin, Theol. Doctor, Scholæ Herbimensis Rector &
Professor, Ecclesiæ ejusdem Pastor, & Vicinarum Nass-
vicarum Inspector, M. P.*

*Mr. Casparus Stippius, Ecclesiæ Siegenensis Archidiaconus, qui
suo & reliquorum fratrum in Comitatu Nassovico Siegenen-
si, nomine subscripsit.*

*Johannes Arcularius, Ecclesiæ Beilsteinis Pastor, qui suo & re-
liquorum fratrum in Comitatu Nassovico Beilsteinensi & Or-
xensi subscripsit.*

*Thomas Born, Pastor Altenkirchenfis nomine Ecclesiarum Co-
mitatus Sainenfis, M. P.*



In English it speaks thus:

*To the Chief Patrons and Rulers of the
Churches of Great Brittain and Ireland, the emi-
nent Servants of God, and most respected favour-
ers of the distressed Church in Germany:*

*Be Grace and Peace from God the Fa-
ther, and our Lord Iesus Christ,
through the Communion of
the Holy Ghost, Amen.*



Although it is attested by the holy Ora-
cles: and the thing it self doth speak
it, that to the severall members of the
Church severall Gifts of Gods Spirit
are bestowed; yet it is evident that
the Father of Lights, the Giver of e-
very perfect gift doth in the distribu-
tion of all his Gifts propose unto him-
self but one and the same end, which

is the common edification and mutuall usefulness of all un-
to each other.. For the Apostle saith, that *The manifestation
of the Spirit is given to every one to profit withall:* and elsewhere
we are commanded, *As every one hath received the Gifts, even so
to minister the same unto one another, as good Stewards of the mani-
fold graces of God.* For the talent which every one of us hath
received of God, is committed to our Trust, that we being
made distributors thereof, should not dig it in the ground, as
that unprofitable servant did; but employ it to the advantage
of our Lord: that with such servants as are faithful unto
him, we may gain more Talents both to our Masters use, and
too ur selves.

These

These things, Illustrious and Renowned Gentlemen, most Reverend, and Reverend Fathers, and Brethren in Christ, are alledged; to the end we may acquaint you with our wishes and desires, that seeing we are certainly informed, that in the Churches of Great Britain, the doctrine of Practicall Divinity by the publick Writings of many godly wise Ministers of your Churches, is brought to a great perfection, and that it is excellently fitted for the use of the Common People, but yet kept up as a hidden treasure from the eyes of forreign Nations within the bounds of your own language alone, and that a very great benefit would accrew unto all Christian Churches, and chiefly to those that professe the purity of the Gospel, if so be those things which are peculiar unto you, were published, so as by them they might also be read and understood: seeing (we say) these things are so; our purpose is to acquaint your Honours and Worships with our wishes and desires; and by the bond of holy communion in Christ; and with that confidence of speech which our Brotherly freedom doth suggest; to intreat (you chiefly, who being Rulers, Protectors and Favourers of the Churches, are truly desirous to edifie the Publick) that you would not suffer so precious a Talent to be hid and concealed any longer from the hands and eyes of forreigners: but that you would according to the pious zeal and affection of fervent Charity, which you have towards Brother-churches: and the bountifull care which you have for the glory of God in the Propagation of the Gospel take some convenient course by which the marrow of those Authours, which in that kinde are extant amongst you, and are of chief note; may be gathered out of all into one Volume: either of Common Places, or of a Body of Practicall Divinity: which may be published and made use of by all in a tongue known and common to the Learned.

We have heard that some few things have been translated into the Low Dutch Language; which are of great use unto those Churches, and their Scholars of Divinity.

Of late also there is a little Book of the *Practise of Piety*, translated out of the English into our Germane tongue;

B

which

which hath taken so much with many godly souls ; that we finde thereby wrought in them , a very great growth of that Religious disposition , which doth consist in a pure and modest Profession of Heavenly Truth : for which cause (we hope) that if our wishes may obtain by your means the favour which is desired , that some of your men (to whom God seemeth mercifully to have given , in the midst of these troubles both quietness , and means to confer these and such like benefits unto his Church) will easily be found , who without difficulty will at your Perswasion , bestow their pains and their Talents to collect , to translate , to digest , and to publish the chief Practical Writings and Meditations of your Authours. Whence we are confident this will come to pass , that the Kingdom of God will receive a notable enlargement , if a Compleat Body of such Doctrine out of your Writers were put forth ; wherein as well the young Scholars of Divinity for their studies : as many Pastors of the Churches for their Sermons , might finde matter farre more useful unto edification , then that is , which now a dayes is met withall in Controversial Writings : So that by this means , the mindes of many men may be drawn back from the endeavours of strife , unto the affections of unfeigned Charity ; whence afterwards this will follow ; that unto God in the first place Glory and Thanksgiving will redound ; and then unto the Professors of the Gospel , with the care of Holinesse and Piety , Peace and Concord ; to the Churches , publick edification ; to the simpler sort , Pious learning ; to the Godly and afflicted , sound spiritual comfort ; to the erring and such as go astray , saving Conversion ; to such as are secure and carnal , a lively wakening of their conscience ; to the Hypocrites and stubborn sinners , a cleer discovery of their Perversnesse ; and to all the Generations to come , a greater light of Truth will be advanced ; and lastly , unto those that shall bestow their Talent towards this Endeavour , for the Advancement of Gods Kingdom ; when he shall call us to an account of the Talent , which we have received from him ; that glorious and blessed voice shall then come from the Lord unto them : *Well done , thou good and faithful servant , thou hast been faithful in a few things ,*

things, I will make thee Ruler over many things, enter into the joy of thy Lord: which joy we wish from our heart, together with all temporall happiness; to all those, to whom this our Request shall be made known; and with whom it shall finde acceptance.

Farewel in the Lord Excellent Gentlemen, whom with all respect we are bound to worship. *Given at Hanaw 24 Febr. 1633. By John Daniel Wildius Minister of Gods Word, and Inspector of the Churches of Hanaw. M. P.*

Theodorus Lewelius, Preacher of the Church of Hanaw.

Conradus Amonius, Preacher to the Court in the same place.

Paulus Tossanus, Doctor of Divinity, and Assessor of the Ecclesiastical Senate in the lower Electoral Palatinate.

Clemens Boecius, Pastor of the French Church in New Hanaw.

Isaacs Boots, Pastor of the Flanders Church, which is gathered unto Christ in Hanaw.

Matthew Rowyer, Pastor of the French Church at New Hanaw.

Mr. Philip Paepus son to David, Rector and Professor of the famous Colledge of Hanaw.

At Herborne in March and elsewhere in April, in the same year 1633, the same suit was renewed by these:

Petrus Streithagen, Preacher to the Court of the most Illustrious King of Bohemia, of blessed memory.

John Moriaen, formerly Preacher of Gods Word amongst those of Collen. I did under-write this at Francfort 23 April 1633.

Philip Snabelius of Hoing in the County of Solms, Preacher to his native Church.

John Conradus Hopfius, Minister of the Word of God in the County of Hanaw in Merchabel, an exiled Palatine.

I Henry Meerboltius, for the present time Pastor of Schefshrim Ladenburg in the Electoral Palatinate: am willing to confirm also with my Subscription, this most profitable intention and common wish of our Brethren of Germany.

John Irlin, Doctor of Divinity, Rector and Professor of the School of Herborn, Pastor of the Church of the same place, and Inspector of the neighbouring Churches of Nassau. M. P.

Mr. Casparus Scippius, Archdeacon of the Church of Siegen, who subscribed in his own name, and in the name of the rest of his Brethren, in the County of Siegen in Nassau.

John Arcularius Pastor of the Church of Beilstein, who subscribed in his own name, and in the name of the rest of his Brethren, in the Counties of Beilstein and Orzen in Nassau.

Thomas Dorn, Pastor of Alienkirch, in the name of the Churches of the County of Sainen. M. P.

This

THis Letter doth speak sufficiently for it self; and the persons who did write it were in these parts none of the least considerable in these times; nor is their number small, if you take notice of the Churches in whose names the Subscriptions are made; and although the time since this Letter was sent, may seem somewhat long, yet because that which hitherto could be done to obtain their desire hath not bin neglected, though by several invincible impediments obstructed, because the expectation of obtaining it is not vanished, but at this time raised, and because such a Suit as this can never be out of date till it be fulfilled, nay, although the first Petitioners should all be dead, it ought not the less conscionably to be regarded by those to whom it is made; because it doth not at all concern any temporal, or so much the particular conveniency of those that make it, as the spiritual edification, and general benefit of all the Churches of God, and of the ages to come in the Gospel: I say because of all these considerations; and more that might be added; therefore I am willing to second their request, as many ways I am bound to do: and to that effect that the accomplishment of their desire may be obtained with more readines and facility, I have added hereunto a Summary Platform of the heads of such a Body of Divinity as they sue for, which may give the Undertakers some occasion to think further upon the matter, which (I hope) God will bless in their hand; whereunto the endeavours and prayers shall not be wanting, of their

Humble Servant in Christ,

John Dury.

